

ROGUE RIVER NATURAL RIVER PLAN

KENT COUNTY

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FISHERIES DIVISION

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
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PREFACE

The Rogue River in Kent County has become one of the "hottest" trout streams in southern Michigan. Located close to Michigan's second largest metropolitan area - Grand Rapids - the Rogue can provide a quality fishing experience for the most discriminating angler. Many fishermen have discovered they do not have to travel hundreds of miles to find good trout fishing. As more anglers become aware of the fishery provided by the Rogue and its tributaries and as population in the surrounding area increases, it will become increasingly important to protect the natural qualities of this valuable resource.

The Natural Rivers Act (Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994) authorizes the Natural Resources Commission to establish a system of "natural rivers" in the state and to provide for their preservation, protection and enhancement. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and a committee of township officials and concerned citizens from Kent County have studied the Rogue River and is recommending it be designated as a Country Scenic River. A Country Scenic River is in an agricultural setting with narrow bands of woods or pastoral borders. Farms and other developments may be visible from the river and it may be readily accessible by road. It may have undergone some impounding and its waters should meet established water quality standards.

This report (1) provides a physical description of the river and surrounding lands; (2) reviews values of the river and factors affecting its future nature and use; and (3) provides a plan for the protection of the river's natural qualities and to guide its future use. The plan is the result of joint efforts of the Department of Natural Resources and local public officials representing the townships bordering the Rogue River.

